

Watch out for that nest in the tree you about to trim or cut down!



Every year wildlife rehabilitators across the nation receive orphaned and/or injured baby tree squirrels because they have lost their nest trees due to tree trimming and removal. Tree squirrels typically mate twice a year and have their young around January/February and July/August. **Look before you start!**

CHECK TREES BEFORE TRIMMING.

WAIT UNTIL THERE ARE NO ACTIVE NESTS TO TRIM.

The family lives in a leaf nest (drey) which is usually high in the tree and close to the trunk. It often looks like a pile of dead leaves in the V of a tree. The baby squirrels will stay with their moms in the nest for about four months which leaves a short period when trees can be safely removed without disturbing them.



Typical Squirrel nest (drey)

Before trimming or tree removal, check the tree for nests, mother does not cover them up so the babies can be easily seen in the nest. Look for active bird nests also. If the tree has to be

trimmed, trim around the nest, being careful not to disturb. Mom will run off but should return as soon as the activity subsides and take care of her babies.

If a nest does come down, try to carefully place it in another part of the tree and watch to see if the mom squirrel returns to care for the young. If babies fall out of a nest and are not injured or cold, they can be placed at the base of the tree (as long as pets and children are kept away) and mom should come and retrieve them. Placing the nest at the base of the tree after all activity is done, works too. If mom does not come back to care for them within 4 hours (or by the time it gets dark), call Shasta Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation at 530 365-9453.

Many people believe that if you touch and handle a baby squirrel and the nest, the mother squirrel will not take the baby squirrels back. Not true. Don't worry, the mother squirrel will always take her young back. So always put the nest back into a tree as close to its original location as possible. Mother tree squirrels have 2 nests, one for her babies and one as an alternate if something happens to the primary nest. She will then move them to the second nest.

by Karlene Stoker and the CCWR (California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitation)